

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08503 231044Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 USSS-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /165 W

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O R 230951Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0240

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUNNY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8503

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR IS

SUBJ: OPPOSITION ATTACK ON GOI VOER CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION

1. LATE OCTOBER 22 LIKUD BLOC ISSUED DELCARATION STATING:
 - A. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSC RESOLUTION OF OCTOBER 22 WOULD NOT LEAD TO PEACE BUT WOULD ENDANGER ISRAEL'S SECURITY
 - B. USSR IS CONTINUING ARMS RESUPPLY OF ARABS, AND EXPERIENCE PROVES ARABS MAY CONDUCT SURPRISE ATTACK
 - C. LIKUD OPPOSES GOI ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION
 - D. GOI GUILTY OF GRAVE ERROR IN WEEK PRECEDING WAR IN NOT ACTING ON RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE IT HAD ABOUT IMMINENT DANGER, BY MOBILIZING AND BY DEPLOYING ADDITIONAL ISRAELI FORCES TO NROTH AND SOUTH..
 - E. LIKUD CALL ON ISRAELI PEOPLE TO ABOLISH WRONG GOI POLICY AND SHAPE NEW ONE.

2. WE ARE INFORMED LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL YADLIN EARLY OCTOBER 22 RESPONDED TO LIKUD IN CONVERSATION WITH
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 08503 231044Z

JOURNALISTS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. PARTY REGRETS LIKUD COULD NOT HOLD BACK FROM THIS ATTACK UNTIL FIRING ALONG FRONTLINES HAD REALLY CEASED; LIKUD IS MAKING SERIOUS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GOI AND IDF AT TIME WHEN GOI AND IDF ARE NOT FREE TO EXPLAIN REASONS WHICH LAY BEHIND OPERATIONAL DECISIONS

B. AS FOR CEASEFIRE, GOI ACCEPTED USG APPEAL BECAUSE US FRIENDSHIP AND US MILITARY AID ARE VITAL FACTOR IN EACH MILITARY OPERATION WHICH IS FORCED ON ISRAEL

C. UNSC RESOLUTION CALLS FOR FIRST TIME FOR SOMETHING NOT SPECIFIED IN RESOLUTION 242: IMMEDIATE COMMENCEMENT OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES, PARALLEL WITH CEASEFIRE.

3. MAARIV TODAY CITES LABOR PARTY SOURCES AS EXPRESSING INDIGNATION AT LIKUD ATTACK BECAUSE LIKUD KNESSET MEMBERS SIT ON COMMITTEES WHICH RECEIVED UP TO MINUTE INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY BRIEFINGS BEFORE AND DURING WAR, AND KNOW CHARGES ARE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH FACTS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND AT KNESSET SESSION FOUR PM TODAY MRS MEIR WILL MAKE STATEMENT, LIKUD WILL MAKE STATEMENT, MRS MEIR MAY ANSWER, AND VOTE WILL BE TAKEN ON GOI DECISION TO ACCEPT OCTOBER 22 UNSC RESOLUTION.

5. WE BELIEVE GOI WILL WIN KNESSET VOT, BUT NOT NECESSARILY BY MUCH MARGIN, AND WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE BREAKS OUT. KEY FACTOR IS ATTITUDE OF SENIOR MILITARY AND WHETHER THEY WILL MAKE THEIR ATTITUDE KNOWN, SINCE BOTH SIDES ARE CLAIMING IDF AGREEMENT WITH THEIR VIEW-POINT. IN THIS CONNECTIONS BACT THAT REACTIVATED GENERAL SHARON, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE CONCEIVED ISRAELI BRIDGEHEAD STRATEGY WEST OF CANAL AND TO HAVE SHARED DE FACTO COMMAND OF SUEZ FRONT WITH REACTIVATED GENERAL BARLEV, MAY EMERGE AS MAJOR HERO OF THIS WAR, COULD AFFECT SITUATION. IT WAS SHARON WHO ORIGINATED IDEA OF CREATING LIKUD BLOC THIS SUMMER, AND HE IS IMPORTANT FIGURE IN IT. IN SHORT, LABOR ALIGNMENT SEEMS IN FOR SOME ROUGH SLEDDING IN WEEKS AHEAD IN DEFENDING ITS NATIONAL-SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICIES.
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